

Glenda Wiles

From: Phillip Taylor [chip3@rkymtn.net]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2007 1:25 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Request for Information



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Phillip Taylor
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June 1, 2007

Greg Chilcott, Chair
Ravalli County Commissioners
Ravalli County Courthouse
Hamilton, Montana 59840

Mr. Chilcott:

I have read with great interest your request to the Montana Attorney General for an opinion relative to the Interim Zoning interpretation issue which County Attorney George Corn had previously issued an opinion on. Specifically, your request was regarding the principles that govern interpretation of ballot initiatives.

First and foremost, I have a video tape of the entire meeting where such an opinion request was discussed. There was never a motion made, seconded and voted on, authorizing such a request by the Board of Commissioners. I have reviewed that video several times.

It is obvious to me that your request was delivered in technical terms beyond the capacity of laypersons, including yourself. The request made was couched in terms and statements that must have been authored by an attorney or other professional advisor. Neither the Ravalli County Attorney nor his staff authored this letter of request. I want to know who did author it.

Under the public right to know statutes, I would like the name of the attorney or the author of the abovementioned request to the Attorney General. I would like copies of any communications notes and correspondence including emails that may have provided communications between you and the author and/or his staff.

Lastly, the response you received from the Attorney General offers the same opinion and has exactly the same effect as the previous opinion issued by your statutorily authorized attorney, George Corn. The Ravalli Republic article in today's paper was certainly slanted and I suspicion that you had a great deal to do with that. However, the opinion changes nothing and the initiative author's intent and plain language prevails.

I request that you provide the above requested information immediately, within three working days, so that we can get to the bottom of what or who is driving this effort to negate the will of the people. If there is a delay necessitated in your response, you need to notify me. In any case, I expect your response within five working days. You may provide the information by email and a hard copy which may be mailed to me or, at your request, I will pick up at the county commissioners' office.

Phillip Taylor

cc: Sarah McMillan

